



NEWS RELEASE

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VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Strong Armed Robbery

Location: 190 E. Main St. (Mission Park)

Date/Time Occurred: 03/24/20 @ 0944 hours

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Patrol

Suspect(s): Martha Berber, DOB: 07/19/1983, Vagrant

Report #: 20-19697

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call of a possible strong armed robbery that just occurred in Mission Park at 190 E. Main St. The victim reported using pepper spray against the suspect, later identified as Martha Berber, who was still in the park. Officers arrived and detained the suspect.

During the investigation, officers learned the victim was in the park when she was confronted by Berber, who approached the victim and grabbed a lanyard that was around her neck. Attached to the lanyard were the victim's keys. There was a brief struggle between the victim and Berber over the lanyard, but Berber was able to forcibly take it from the victim. Fearing for her safety, the victim sprayed Berber with pepper spray during the struggle. The victim received a minor injury to her face as a result of the attack.

When she was detained, Berber was still in possession of the victim's property. She also had other property that was possibly stolen.

Berber was arrested for robbery and misappropriation of lost property.

A review of the Ventura County Superior Court website shows that since 2018, Berber has 17 prior convictions for various charges that include assault with a deadly weapon, battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, battery, petty theft, disturbing the peace, drunk in public, and municipal code violations.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

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